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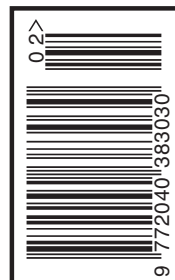
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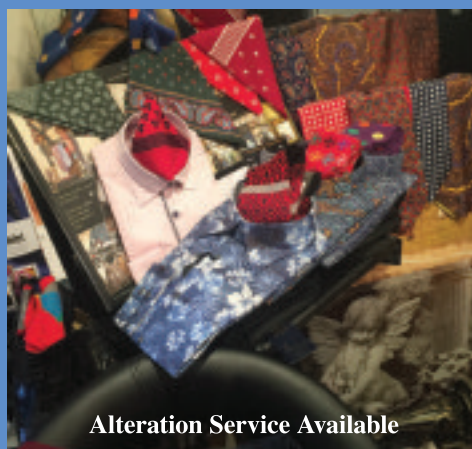
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Cuddly cats
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See page 4



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Decision due on arts centre plans



Horton Chapel in Livingston Park

By Calum Rutter
Reporter

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Plans have been revealed to transform the disused Horton Chapel into an arts and culture centre for Epsom.

Once part of the largest concentration of mental hospitals in the world, the Grade II listed building in Livingston Park has been vacant for at least 20 years and is in poor condition as a result of neglect and vandalism.

Ian Reeves, chairman of Horton

Chapel Arts & Heritage Society, said: "We're very pleased that we have been able to develop plans that allow flexible use of Horton Chapel's incredible space while retaining and enhancing its heritage features."

It is hoped the chapel will be turned into a cultural hub, including a performance space, café and space to hire by local groups for rehearsals and teaching spaces. Activities would include performances, screenings, exhibitions, hands-on sessions and other events.

The proposals also include a permanent exhibition about the impact the hospital cluster, formed at the begin-

ning of the twentieth century, had on the area.

Mr Reeves said: "We believe our architect, Crane & Associates, has struck an exciting balance between historic and contemporary – for example preserving the ornate tiled Victorian floors, decorated organ pipes and barrel-vaulted ceilings, but future-proofing the building for digital connectivity that is so important for a successful creative and cultural centre. We believe the renovated building will offer great opportunities for the whole community."

These plans are the latest in a long series of proposals for the chapel, which

is owned by Epsom and Ewell Council.

Horton Chapel Arts & Heritage Society has benefitted from a £10,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, a £25,000 grant from the Architectural Heritage Fund, and recently a £15,000 grant from Power to Change.

The latest grant will pay for expert reports, design services and technical specifications that will enable the listed building to be renovated. Mr Reeves said the new grant was "further recognition of the huge potential for Horton Chapel". The planning application has been made to the council, and a decision is expected by February 8.

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INSIDE

Author named as ambassador



See page 3

Thieves target pawnbrokers



Page 5



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By Simon Bull
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Epsom Guardian: 34,869

Jicreg audited circulation: January to December, 2015; 99.6% free



Audience on the web:

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Popular children's author becomes trust ambassador

David Walliams OBE has been announced as Ambassador of The Children's Trust.

The comedian, actor and children's author has supported The Children's Trust for several years, which was officially recognised today (January 8).

On Christmas Day he delighted everyone at the charity's headquarters in Tadworth with a reading from his latest book – *Bad Dad*.

David said: "I am absolutely thrilled to become an Ambassador for The Children's Trust. It's a charity I care greatly about, and every time I visit I am struck by its warm, caring atmosphere and the dedication of its staff.

"The Children's Trust is a very special place with incredibly inspiring young people. I feel very proud to be involved."

The Trust is the UK's leading charity for children with brain injury and neurodisability, providing specialist rehabilitation, education and community services across the UK.

Dalton Leong, chief executive at The Children's Trust, said: "We are truly honoured to have David's support; he will be helping raise awareness of brain injury and our work supporting thousands of children every year.

"Over the past few years, David has generously given us a lot of his time, hosting fundraising events and reading to the children, which really brightens their spirits and helps with their rehabilitation."

Last year David Walliams met two-year old Archie who stayed at The Children's Trust for intensive rehabilitation following an unexpected illness

Photographer: Theodore Wood



Man attacked

A man was left with a serious head injury after an assault in Epsom town centre just before Christmas.

The victim left a bar with friends and a group he had met that evening at around 3am on Saturday, December 23.

While they were walking towards the Clock Tower, one of the men in the group reportedly hit the victim on the head, knocking him over.

Others in the group also reported being attacked by the man, but did not sustain any injuries.

Police have arrested a 28-year-old man in connection with the assault, and have released him under investigation.

Anyone with information is asked to call Surrey Police on 101, quoting reference PR/45170142417.

Election called

A by-election has been triggered in the Ruxley ward for Epsom and Ewell Council, after Councillor Keith Partridge's decision to resign due to a "change in personal circumstances".

The election will take place in half term week, on Thursday, February 15, and the formal call for candidates will be issued this week.

Councillor Partridge represented the Residents Association, as do the two councillors who remain in the ward – Councillor Jan Mason and Councillor Alan Sursham.

He served as councillor from May 2015.

Hospital pressures

Reporter

Nick Kituno

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Epsom and St Helier hospitals are rescheduling patient operations and procedures because of 'sustained and unprecedented pressure' on its services.

It comes as Prime Minister Theresa May apologised yesterday (January 4) for delays to operations and hospital admissions over the winter months.

Now the trust has admitted further steps have been taken.

Chief executive Daniel Elkeles said: "We can confirm that, following a period of sustained and unprecedented pressure on our services, and in line with guidance from NHS England, we have taken the difficult decision to reschedule some non-emergency procedures.

"We recognise that this may be disruptive for a number of our patients, and I would like to apologise for any inconvenience this has caused.

"However, I would like to reassure our patients that the vast majority of non-emergency procedures will go ahead as usual – on an average weekday we see 170 patients for this type of admission, and 140 will continue to be admitted each day.

"This isn't a step we have taken lightly, but by doing so, we give ourselves more time and space to care for patients who are in a critical condition, and who need emergency care.

The hospital trust recently urged people to only visit its A&E departments in 'genuine emergencies' as its depart-

ments are currently 'extremely busy'.

An Epsom and St Helier spokeswoman confirmed that more than 30 elective, non-emergency procedures have been cancelled in one day alone already, however 140 have also taken place and this does not include emergency procedures such as heart operations.

Siobhain McDonagh MP, Labour member for Mitcham and Morden, said in a tweet: "@epsom_sthelier cancelling 30 operations EVERY day between now & end of January! #NHSCrisis is a personal crisis for 100's [sic] of people."

Mr Elkeles added: "This is a particular priority at the moment, as we are seeing a high number of very sick patients. More than 500 people are attending our A&E departments every day, and there has been a significant increase in the number of critically unwell patients we are seeing – in fact, there has been a 20 percent increase in the number of people who need to be admitted to the resuscitation area of our A&E departments, where the very sickest patients need treatment.

"In addition, approximately 100 people per day are being admitted to hospital as emergency inpatients.

"This is a significant surge in demand, and I would like to thank our patients for their understanding during this time.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our staff, who are working extraordinarily hard in challenging circumstances."

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Siamese taken by professional pet photographer Natasha Balletta

Cats meow-ment in the limelight

Last Saturday, Leatherhead Leisure Centre was overrun with beauty pageants of the feline kind.

More than 200 of the world's most curious breeds assembled for the LondonCats International Cat Show last weekend (January 6 and 7).

Bald Sphinxes, fluffy Persians, enormous Main Coons, and the perpetually-

anxious looking Scottish Fold were amongst the breeds on display.

The UK's first werewolf cat was there too, named 'Teddy Lupin' for the Harry Potter character with similar hints of lycanthropy.

Above is a gallery of some of the cats on show, taken by professional pet photographer Natasha Balletta.



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Andrew Wilkins found his glove compartment stuffed with acorns.

Nuts squirrelled away in glovebox

A Reigate estate agent had a nutty surprise after coming back from south east Asia, when he found squirrels had stashed a huge number of acorns in his car.

Andrew Wilkins took his Volkswagen Golf to a garage upon his return, because he was finding it hard to change gear.

When he got there, he opened the glove compartment for the first time since coming home, and found it stuffed full of acorns.

He said: "I went to put a pair of sunglasses in there and when I opened it, eight acorns fell out. You can imagine my surprise."

"I told one of the mechanics to take a look and he said 'What the ****?' Within 30 seconds, all ten of the garage's mechanics were gathered around the car having a laugh."

Half an hour later, Andrew received a call telling him the true extent of the damage the mischievous squirrel wreaked on his car.

He said: "The reason I couldn't change gear properly was because they were absolutely everywhere. They were behind the trim, under the bonnet and inside the gearbox assembly."

"Underneath the bonnet there's sound proofing and that had been torn apart. There were probably 100 acorns. It was literally full to the brim."

Mechanics also found a dead rat inside the bonnet, and then charged Andrew, 25, £168 for the work done to fix his bizarre problem.

Andrew said: "I had some squirrel squatters for a month. I feel bad - I ruined their winter and all their hard work. I'm sure they'll find more."

Pawnbroker hit with £35k theft

Reporter

Calum Rutter

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newsquest.co.uk

The owner of an Epsom High Street pawnbroker that lost £35,000 in a theft last week has spoken of her shock.

JF Daughters was targeted by thieves who stole a large quantity of gold at about 2pm on Thursday, January 4.

Juliette Bailey, the owner, said: "As a local family-run business, we are in deep shock at the theft that has cost us £35,000. We work very closely with the Met and the local police to ensure that we run our business in the correct manner."

"We don't buy stolen goods and we don't expect to be stolen from. We support our customers 100 per cent and we at JFD are locally known as the nicest pawnbrokers some people have ever dealt with."

JF Daughters is offering a reward of £1,000 to the person who provides information that leads to the culprits' arrest.

Ms Bailey said: "This



Thieves stole more than £30,000 of gold from JF Daughters in Epsom

Picture: Google Maps

has hit us hard financially, which will obviously have a big effect on the community projects that we support throughout the year."

"It will take a while for myself and my team to recover, not only financially but also emotionally. On that note I'd like to reassure our custom-

ers that we will continue to smile during this upsetting situation and it's business as usual."

Surrey Police want to identify three people regarding the incident.

The first man is described as eastern European, around 5ft 8in, of heavy build with short black hair and facial hair. He was wearing blue jeans, a grey fleece and a T-shirt.

The second man is described as eastern European, around 5ft 9in, of large build with black hair.

He was wearing black suede slip-on shoes.

A woman is described as eastern European, around 5ft 2in with black hair in a bun or loose ponytail. She was wearing a long black skirt, a jumper and a mid-length black cardigan. She was also carrying a dark coloured shopping bag.

Anyone who was in the shop at about 2pm, or has any information, is asked to call police on 101, quoting reference PR/45180001522, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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Centre plans

Reporter

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People are outraged that the Coulsdon Community Centre could be turned into homes.

Croydon Council's development company Brick by Brick has proposed that the community centre be demolished and replaced by 17 houses and 16 flats.

Coulsdon West Councillor Mario Creatura said there was "no compelling case" to spend money relocating the centre.

"It is fine where it is and has served its community very well under its current management committee," he said.

"As the new proposed development is up hill from existing properties there is fear from the many residents who have contact me that they will be able to look down directly into bedrooms and bathrooms of existing properties, seriously affecting privacy and security."

At the moment, the community centre theatre is currently used for theatre rehearsals and productions, exercise classes and a nursery that operate from the building, among other things.

The councillor isn't the only one upset by the proposal either.

In a statement posted on the community centre's website, Richard Lloyd was doubtful that moving the centre to the old Smitham Junior School (former CALAT Centre) site would benefit the community.

"Now there may be certain advantages to this proposal, including new, improved facilities and more space, or there may not," Mr Lloyd wrote "We're engaging with the council, their development com-



There are plans to demolish the Coulsdon Community Centre

pany and the architects, to consider all the options, and to make sure that any scheme that does go forward (and there's no guarantee it will) meets the needs of all our many user groups and the wider community.

"If – and it's a big if – we feel we can reach an accommodation on a scheme and a deal which we feel able to recommend to our users, then we'll make sure everybody knows about it and is happy with it.

"If we can't, then we will vigorously defend our right to stay exactly where we are, and to continue operating very successfully as we have been for many years."

The community centre building dates back to 1935 and is let by Croydon Council to Coulsdon Community Centre.

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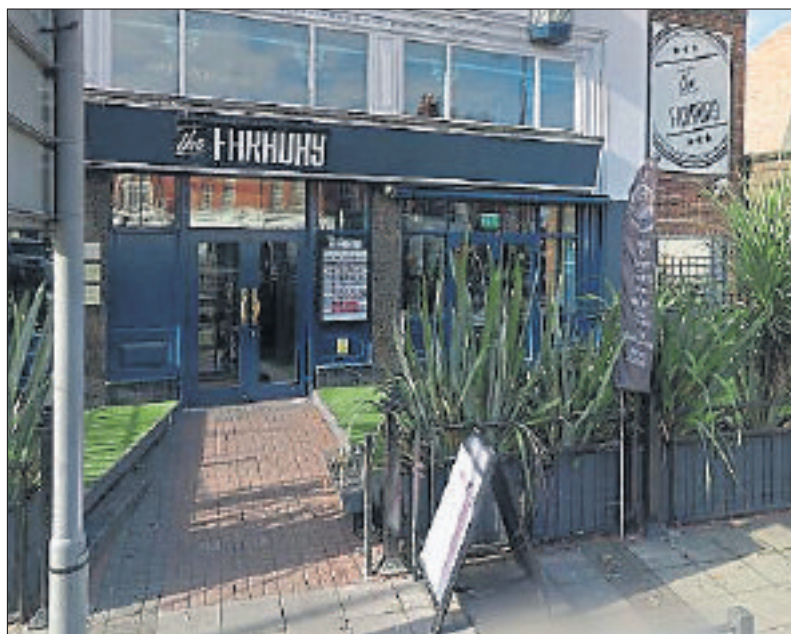
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The incident took place at The Faraday

Picture: Google Streetview

Witness plea after man hurt in brawl

A man was left with a fractured eye socket after an incident in The Faraday in Epsom on Christmas Eve.

It is believed to have happened between 9.30pm and 11pm, and police are appealing for witnesses.

Investigating officer, PC Stuart Glover, said: "This was a busy bar, so I am confident that there are people who saw

an incident between these two men. One man sustained a serious injury, so we'd like to hear from you if you saw or heard anything that evening."

Anyone with information, pictures or video of the incident is asked to call Surrey Police on 101, quoting reference PR/45170143738, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Boy and mum hurt in collapse

Reporter

Mahalia Mayne

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newsquest.co.uk

A four-year-old boy and his mother were injured by falling rubble when part of a wall collapsed in Church Street, in the centre of Epsom.

Another man received minor leg injuries.

Police, ambulance crews and firefighters all attended the scene at 12.50pm last Thursday (January 4) to reports of fallen masonry.

Sandy Mills, a Bupa care worker, was driving along Church Street at the time, and helped the woman out of the rubble.

She said: "Some people had managed to get the boy out, but they had left the woman there. I had to get her out, because the whole thing might have come down on her."

"The boy was bleeding from the back of his head, so I had to put pressure on it. The woman was screaming for someone to help her son."

Epsom Guardian reader Benedikt said: "Both the



Church Street Picture: Epsom Police

mother and child, and myself and my wife, were nearly killed today.

"Only a few seconds separated our walk past the building from the falling masonry which could have killed us."

Ms Mills said: "It all seemed to happen in slow motion. If I had been a bit further forward, it might have come down on my car."

Speaking about her actions, she said: "In that situation you just want to help. It's not something I'll ever forget."

The pair were taken to St George's Hospital in Tooting, the boy with head injuries and his mother with injuries

to her upper and lower arm, but a South East Coast Ambulance Service spokesman said the injuries are not believed to be life-changing.

Twitter user GFWilliams said: "I heard it, was a very loud bang."

"There were two people in the rubble as I looked down seconds after, they moved out of the rubble quickly as people assisted them."

"Emergency services arrived incredibly quickly."

Surrey Police said the road was closed between the junctions with Dulshott Green and Upper High Street while emergency services and council building inspectors carry out their work.

The road remained closed until January 10.

It is not clear at this stage what caused the falling rubble.

A Surrey Fire and Rescue Service spokesman said: "We received a call at around 12.50pm to Church Street, Epsom. Part of a building has collapsed, and three fire engines and an aerial ladder are currently on the scene."

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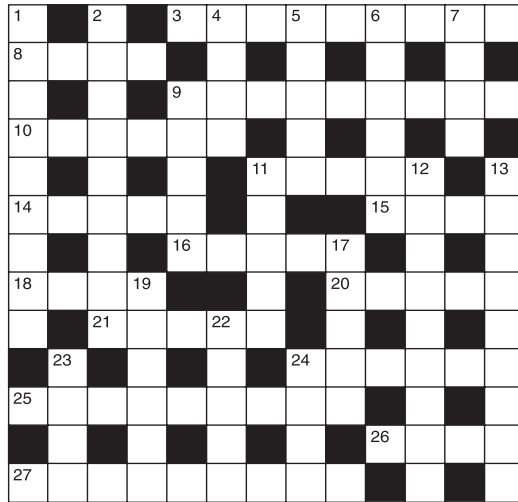
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PUZZLES

TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD

Last week's solutions



CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

3. Coming to the river for an escapade (9)
8. Uncommon artist and engineer (4)
9. Be a spokesman for the engineers here (9)
10. Odd somehow to find a jewel on this car (6)
11. A device encountered by the Queen (5)
14. Leading surrealists exhibited in the gallery show preference (5)
15. Spartan queen Dale upset (4)
16. Search for a gun (5)
18. Does rewrite poetry (4)
20. Approaches Arne's new composition (5)
21. Diana's a new woman (5)
24. Tree from East London (6)
25. Hip dislocated recently due to stamp collecting (9)
26. Hesitate in Ireland (4)
27. Lady-killer? (9)

Down

1. Routine I'd set out for learning (9)
2. Rents made up for shopkeepers (9)
4. Consider the river flowing to Minehead ... (4)
5. ... ere a change that is strange (5)
6. The man was seated over by the tuft of threads (6)
7. Opening payment (4)
9. Allude to a palindrome (5)
11. A1 family starting to get turned over by the mob (5)
12. Shopkeepers sought by three blind mice? (9)
13. Powerless actor gets suspended (9)
17. Receive pleasure from experience (5)
19. The first son became unwell having gone by boat (6)
22. Val leaves at half-time to bury (5)
23. you in the outhouse (4)
24. Many leave fruit in addition (4)

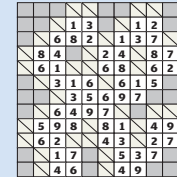
QUICK CLUES

Across

3. Risky undertaking (9)
 8. Unusual (4)
 9. Correspond to (9)
 10. Bumper car (6)
 11. Measure (5)
 14. Labour (5)
 15. Queen of Sparta (4)
 16. Firearm (5)
 18. Poems (4)
 20. Gets closer to (5)
 21. Girl's name (5)
 24. Type of tree (6)
 25. Stamp collecting (9)
 26. Poetic name for Ireland (4)
 27. Female killer (9)
- #### Down
1. Learnedness (9)
 2. Retailers (9)
 4. Consider (4)
 5. Weird (5)
 6. Decorative tuft (6)
 7. Tenant's payment (4)
 9. Allude (5)
 11. Criminal organisation (5)
 12. Sellers (9)
 13. Thwarted (9)
 17. Relish (5)
 19. Travelled over water (6)
 22. Bury (5)
 23. Archaic word for 'you' (4)
 24. With the addition of (4)

TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD:
Across: 1 Lira; 3 Asterisk; 8 Diva; 9 Describe; 11 Shot in the arm; 13 Alight; 14 Fidget; 17 Dessert spoon; 20 Answered; 21 Offa; 22 Polished; 23 Enid. Down: 1 Lodestar; 2 Ravioli; 4 Sheath; 5 Ecclesiast; 6 Icier; 7 Keep; 10 Air hostess; 12 Standard; 15 Good fun; 16 Greece; 18 Easel; 19 Carp.

KAKURO:



CLOCKWORD: 1 Report, 2 Outlet, 3 Nougat, 4 Abduct, 5 Limpet, 6 Depict, 7 Permit, 8 Intact, 9 Carpet, 10 Knight, 11 Urgent, 12 Priest.

CELEBRITY: Ronald Pickup.

BATTLESHIPS:



CIRCLEGRAM: The letter represented by the question mark is K. Jackson, Polanski, Zemeckis, all film directors.

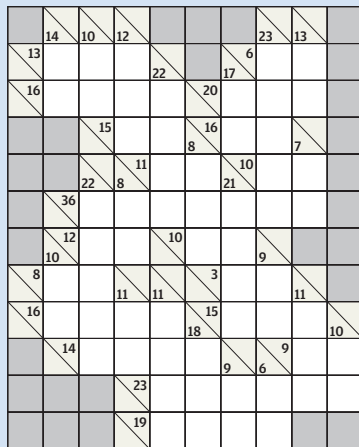
NINER: WRESTLING

SPLIT DECISION:

T	H	U	M	P	B	E	A	C	H
W	N	L	A	D	O				
I	N	D	I	A	T	H	U	M	B
G	E	N	H	L	B				
S	O	R	T	S	E	N	T	R	I

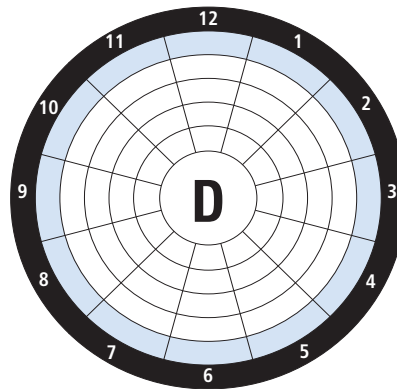
KAKURO

Fill in the white squares with the numbers 1 to 9. Each horizontal block of squares must add up to the number in the shaded square to its left, and each vertical block must add up to the number in the shaded square above it. No number may be used more than once in any one block.



CLOCKWORD

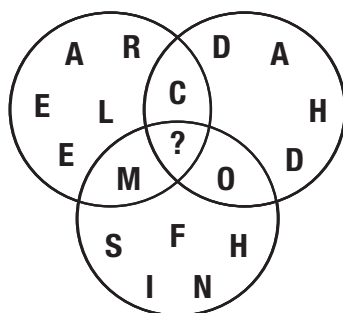
The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter D in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a late Mexican-born Hollywood actor.



1. Climb
2. Required
3. Camera stand
4. Danger
5. Rare flower
6. Got closer to
7. Pulled
8. Trembled
9. In alliance
10. Mean
11. Showed agreement
12. Elbowed

CIRCLEGRAM

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



NINER

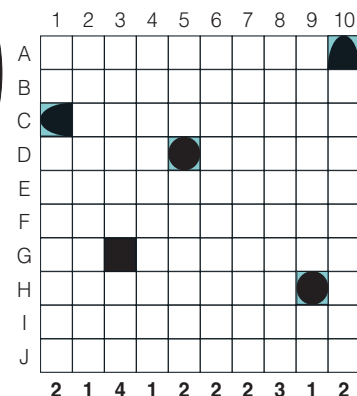
Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

THE CLUES:
8589 gives a flowering plant;
78125381 gives a flowering plant;
7148162 gives a wreath of flowers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

BATTLESHIPS

Find where the fleet of ships shown are hidden in the 10 by 10 grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.

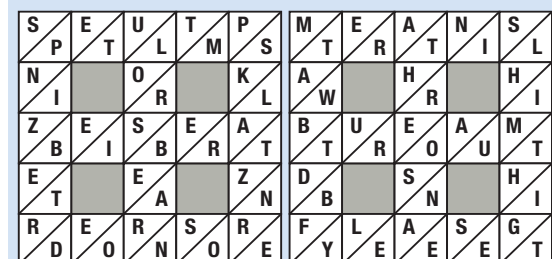


THE FLEET

- 1 x Battleship
- 4
- 2 x Cruiser
- 2
- 2
- 3 x Destroyer
- 2
- 3
- 2
- 4 x Submarine
- 2
- 2
- 1

SPLIT DECISION

Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.



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DEBATE GUARDIAN

The small print: If you are responding to a specific article or letter, include the correspondent's name and the date it was published. Only contributors who include their full name and address will be considered for publication, although we only print a shortened address. We reserve the right not to publish a name or address. We also reserve the right to shorten letters and edit where necessary.

Help with project

I would like to say a big thank you to the readers and journalists at the Croydon Guardian. I am making a film about the life of a former Croydon student John Pennycuik, a pioneering 19th century engineer who helped complete the Mullaiperiyar dam in India to divert the west-flowing Periyar River towards the east so it could irrigate dry land. His work continues to benefit millions of people living in the region and John Pennycuik is famous in India as a result.

I had been trying to track down his family to take part in the film, and following an excellent story on the Croydon Guardian website and in the paper, John's great niece and great grandson got in touch, as well as many other readers who offered to help with the family history research and film production.

I'm hoping to start filming at the dam and in the surrounding region in India on January 15 and will feature John's family and people who I have met recently.

So thank you again to everyone who has helped to make this happen. I can't wait to share the results with everyone. It's not too late to help. If you have any more information about John's life or his family, please get in touch with this newspaper.

Santhana Ibrahim
Purley

ipso.

Complaints
Who to contact

Croydon Guardian adheres to the Editors' Code of Practice (which you can find at ipso.co.uk). We are regulated by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). Complaints about stories should be referred firstly to the editor by email at: newsdesk@croydonguardian.co.uk or by post at Croydon Guardian Complaints, Floor 10, Quadrant House, The Quadrant Sutton SM2 5AS. It is essential your email or letter is headed "Complaint" in the subject line and contains the following information:

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 - The newspaper title or website, preferably a copy of the story or at least the date, page number or website address of the article and any headline.
 - A full explanation of your complaint by reference to the Editors' Code.
- If you do not provide any of the information above this may delay or prevent us dealing with your complaint. Your personal details will only be used for administration purposes.

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picture of the week



Clare O'Neill took this picture of a sunset from her garden in Purley. If you have a Borough View picture you would like to be considered for publication email it to pwarnar@london.newsquest.co.uk

Cost of NHS parking

On Christmas Eve morning at 1am, my Granddaughter woke up crying and shaking, saying her tummy hurt.

I was advised by 111 to take her straight to A&E at Epsom, as no doctors were available. Luckily it was not serious, and she was given antibiotics.

We were in Hospital in Children's A&E for three hours

and 25 minutes.

The cost was £8. There were several other children there with their parents, so I expect they were stung for a similar amount, if not more.

It is bad enough to wake up in the middle of the night to find a little one ill, and to have to rush them to Hospital in a panic, but to have to pay these extortionate

parking charges in the early morning is something else.

I had £7.80 change in my purse. If it were not for the kindness of someone I believe was a member of staff, and who gave me the missing 20p, our hospital visit would have been even more stressful.

I would like to thank the lady who helped me out, and I hope

she can read this letter.

Why does the Hospital allow this overnight money grabbing exercise to take place? It is bad enough through the day, but through the night, and in Emergency circumstances? Despicable!

Liz Smith
Address supplied

Paying the price of rising insurance premiums

Still counting the cost of Christmas? I was in this 'batten down the hatches' frame of mind when I received renewal notices for my both my buildings and contents insurance.

Even my dodgy, distant memory, 'O' Level maths was enough to work out I was being hit with a 21.8 per cent increase and 27.5 per cent increase respectively - despite there being no claims or any change in my circumstances.

So, I did what I do every time this happens and phoned Lloyds Bank. Even before I could explain the helpful man instructed me he could deliver a substantial saving.

The result is I'll now have to pay £4.20 less annually for the buildings and £2.65 more for the



EDITOR'S
VIEW

contents - so, I'm £1.55 better off this year.

I felt duty bound to ask why we have to go through this rigmarole every time. But, both he and I know why.

Firstly, Lloyds knows not everyone will check their figures - in which case they go on banging out 25 per cent increases each year. Who wouldn't get away with this if they could? But, and this is the more subtle second win-win for the bank.

They send you your insurance quote with a massive increase

so when you ring up they can immediately knock it back down to about the figure you were charged last year.

However, you're so pleased at achieving a 25 per cent 'saving' you sign on the dotted line without checking if there's a better price. So, this year I asked if there was anything further to be had?

The phone operator admitted: "There not so much these days but a few years ago there was stacks." Apparently the problem was some phone operators were stingier than others and Lloyds felt this wasn't fair so they took away any discretion. Anyway, my advice is check your insurance premiums.

And, while I'm on the subject,

the French coach driver took my wing mirror off last May finally paid up. As a result I can assure all drivers it doesn't make a jot of difference whether an accident is your fault or not, your premium will increase anyway. In this case I had to swallow £437. The official line from Admiral was: "We rate on claims fault and no-fault and this is why there is no refund due for amending the details to non-fault." In short if you're in an accident, whether it's your fault or not, you pay for it.

Send in your letters by EMAIL to aparkes@london.newsquest.co.uk Or TWITTER to @parkestheeditor Or on FACEBOOK using the address in the panel on the left



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Birthdays

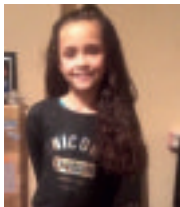


SCARLETT BOYLAN

Happy 6th Birthday

Lots of Love and Kisses

from Great xxx



Happy 8th Birthday

ERYKAH NORMAN

Lots of love and kisses

Great xxx

Deaths

Lilian Louisa Bruce
Passed away peacefully on 24th December, Aged 94. She will be greatly missed by her Son and Daughters, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, Great Great Grandson and Brother. Service to be held at the chapel in Epsom Cemetery on 22nd January at 1pm. Any flowers to be sent to Longhurst Funeral Directors 01372 723 548

Penny Deards

Mother to Mark and Richard Pearce, passed away peacefully on 31st December, aged 70.

Funeral service at Randalls Park Crematorium on Thursday 18th January at 10.15am.

Family flowers only, donations to Alzheimer's Research online.

Geoffrey Petre 'Geoff'

Forever in our hearts. Passed away peacefully on 27th December 2017 aged 78. Much loved brother of Nigel. Now reunited with his beloved wife Irene & son Mark. He will be sadly missed by all his family & friends. Funeral mass will take place at Holy Cross Church North St, SM5 2JD on Wednesday 24th January at 10am Flowers or donations for St Raphael's Hospice or Seafarers uk c/o W.A. Truelove & Son 107 Stafford Rd SM6 9AP 02086471032

Deaths

In Loving Memory Of Joyce Myrtle Goodall
Passed away at St Helier Hospital 18th December aged 92
Funeral to take place Tuesday 16th January at Randalls Park Crematorium Leatherhead at 12.30pm
In lieu of flowers donations to Children's Trust Tadworth C/O Alfred Smith 75 The Broadway Stoneleigh KT17 2HP

After the service all are welcome to join the family at The Woodman Ashted Barnett, wood lane, Surrey KT21 2DA

Raymond Hermitage of Worcester Park died peacefully on the 21st December 2017 at Priory Court Care Home surrounded by his family. His funeral is being held at Randalls Park Crematorium on Friday 19th January at 2pm.

CLAIRE MOHR

Passed peacefully in St Helier hospital on 31/12/2017.

Beloved wife of Kevin, mother of Rhys and Ciaran. Funeral to be held on 12/01/2018 at 16:40 at NE Surrey Crematorium.

No flowers please. Donations instead to the Royal Marsden.

In loving memory of Malcolm Colin Smith (ex councillor for L.B.S. and founder of Age Concern Sutton). Sadly passed away on 29th December 2017 aged 76. Funeral on Wednesday 31st January 12 noon Croydon Crematorium followed by memorial service at St. Marys Church Beddington at 1pm. All welcome to attend. Enquiries to W.A. Truelove & Son 02086471032.

Deaths

Carmel Ann

SPONG

(Nee KEHOE). Carmel sadly passed away peacefully on 26th December 2017 at Epsom Hospital.

Much loved wife of Chas, treasured mother and proud nan. She will be dearly missed by her family and friends.

Funeral Service at Epsom Cemetery Chapel, Morden, on Thursday 18th January at 1pm. Family flowers only please. Cheque donations gratefully accepted in lieu of flowers, payable to "Alzheimer's Society". Please send them C/o: Alan Greenwood & Sons, Independent Funeral Directors, 425 Kingston Rd, Ewell, KT19 0BT. Tel: 020 8786 7476.

John Sterland

Actor, husband and father of three, died peacefully, aged 89, on 21 December 2017.

He was surrounded by his family when he passed, and will be much missed. The funeral will be held At Randalls Park Crematorium in Leatherhead at 2.45pm on 22nd January.

Family Flowers Only. Enquiries: W A Truelove & Son Ltd, Epsom Tel: 01372 723337.



Nicky Woods
Aged 73

Peacefully passed away on 22nd December 2017. Beloved wife of Peter, Mother of Lynda, Mandy and Andy.

Funeral to be held on Friday 26th January at 11.45 Randall's Park Crematorium

No flowers please. Donations to Alzheimer's Research UK and Deepdene Care Home (cheques made payable to Lifestyle Care PLC)



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Blue Mint is no stranger to return custom and it's easy to see why. A favourite with locals and visitors alike, its reputation for excellence is based on its superb contemporary Indian cuisine and friendly, professional service. Tandoori dishes, chef's specialities and a wide range of vegetarian dishes jostle for attention on the impressive menu, whatever your taste you're bound to find something pleasing to your palate.

Dishes like the Blue Mint skank – tender roasted lamb coated in rich ginger, garlic and tomato sauce – are executed perfectly by the talented kitchen team. Hariyali chicken, with its delicately spiced, creamy sauce, is the perfect choice for those who prefer curries on the milder side and has just the right amount of

sweetness to counterbalance the earthy spinach. For something with a little more heat, the appropriately named Blue Mint sizzler boasts lamb, chicken, onion and herbs served on a sizzling platter – guaranteed to add a touch of spice to your evening. The sides available are plentiful, knowledgeable staff will be happy to recommend one to compliment your main dish.

A Succinct and well-considered wine list, with a good selection of white, red, rosé and Champagne, is available, as are Cobra beer – our favourite accompaniment to delicious curry dishes. If you want to enjoy Blue Mint's delicious cuisine at home, make use of their free delivery service.

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EXCELLENT GRADES

Southern Tutors, the Oxbridge Tutor Agency, who supply qualified teachers, is celebrating another excellent year for exam results.

Following this success their expansion has provided a wider choice of venues for their popular 11 plus after-school and intensive holiday courses. These prepare children for a wide range of secondary schools, including grammar and independent schools.

Intensive 11 plus courses are available during all holidays – early booking is essential as places are limited.

They also supply qualified teachers for individual tuition

for 11 plus, 13 plus, GCSE and A level and this year's results have been excellent, with high levels achieved in the new exam syllabuses.

Southern Tutors After School Term Time Classes, which are often oversubscribed, are now taking bookings in their additional, new venue, in Epsom.

Southern Tutors are also delighted to announce the launch of their new mobile App available in the Google Play store and Amazon. The App includes 11+ Maths and English Quizzes, making learning more fun! To celebrate they are giving away House of Fraser vouchers

in their raffle. For details on how to enter visit their website.

Southern Tutors' prolific charity work this year included events around the county. They have been supporting Surrey Arrhythmia Support Group and this year attended the Surrey County Show and Epsom and Ewell Borough Fun Day.

Southern Tutors, MD, Jane Race, recently ran the 10K Santa Fun Run, in just under an hour, around London's Victoria Park. Southern Tutors raised several hundreds of pounds for the Royal Brompton Hospital's Children's Unit. Visit www.southerntutors.co.uk Email info@southerntutors.co.uk

EXCITING FUTURE



Cheam High School's Sixth Form provides all of its students with the support needed to reach their full potential and prepare for the next step in their education and employment.

Our students can choose from a very broad curriculum which caters for a wide range of interests; this allows students to specialise in their areas of strength.

We offer A level and Level 3 Vocational courses as well as the opportunity to improve grades in GCSE English and Maths.

Last year our results were again very good and more than 140 students gained places at university with a number moving into a jobs and apprenticeships.

Alongside our academic courses, we have a well-established enrichment programme which provides a wide range of opportunities for students to develop their skills including our famous 'I'm a Sixth Former get me out of here' event and various challenges.

Open Evening Thursday

18th January 2018 • 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

"Sixth formers achieve academic and work-related qualifications which reflect the outstanding progress they make; mature into thoughtful, considerate young adults; are very well prepared for the next stage of their education, training or work" — OFSTED 2015

"This is an outstanding school. Leadership and management of the sixth form are outstanding" — OFSTED 2015



Meadow Primary School & Children's Centre

Consultation on proposed academy conversion and our intention to join the Bourne Education Trust

The governors of Meadow Primary School & Children's Centre School are seeking views on their proposal to convert to academy status and join the Bourne Education Trust with effect from 1st April 2018.

The Bourne Education Trust is a mainly Surrey-based multi-academy trust made up of ten schools: Auriol Junior School, Brookwood Primary School, Chertsey High School, Epsom and Ewell High School, Jubilee High School, Pyrcroft Grange Primary School, Sayes Court Primary School, Sythwood Primary School, The Matthew Arnold School and one Hampshire-based school, Everest Community Academy.

As part of this decision, the governors have applied to become an academy under the Academies Act 2010 and are now consulting on whether the school's academy conversion should take place.

The consultation document is available in the information section on Meadow Primary School's website <http://www.meadowprimary.co.uk/> and your views will be taken into account before the governors make the final decision. Please submit them by email to Meadow Primary School or in writing to the school to Chair of Governors, Academy Conversion, Meadow Primary School, Sparrow Farm Road, Stoneleigh, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 2LW by 23rd February 2018.

We are also holding a public information evening at 6pm on 25th January 2018 at the school.

Cheam High School

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

**Thursday 18th January 2018
6.30 - 8.30pm**

OFSTED 'OUTSTANDING' 2015

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Resident enjoys 100th birthday

Reporter

Sophie Jones

sophie.jones@london.newsquest.co.uk

A resident at a care home in Epsom has celebrated her 100th birthday and revealed the secret to a long life.

Birthday celebrations were in full swing at Appleby House on Longmead Road when resident Jessie McLennan celebrated her 100th birthday.

Jessie turned 100 years 'young' on December 30, and said the trick for reaching her centenary was surrounding herself with people who make her happy.

To celebrate her milestone birthday, Jessie was joined by fellow residents for a party hosted by the team at the care home, including a bespoke cake created by Coughlans Bakery.

Shona Bradbury, home manager at Appleby House, said: "Residents are at the heart of everything we do here at Appleby House, and we always like to make an occasion of birthdays."

"To celebrate Jessie's birthday, we held a special party here at the home, and it was lovely to



Resident Jessie McLennan celebrates her 100th birthday at Care UK's Appleby House care home, Epsom with, Angela Kuffour, Zoe Heslop, care assistants, Julie Hill team leader, Tracy Judd, Jacqueline Dye, lifestyle co-ordinators and home manager, Shona Bradbury

Picture: Simon Jacobs

celebrate with the residents, for what is a wonderful milestone!"

Jessie was born in 1917 in Ewell, and has fond memories of the house she grew up in with her parents and brother.

After working as a telephonist during the war, Jessie went on to work at the Ewell Telephone Exchange until retirement.

Her favourite pastime is to

write – and she particularly enjoys keeping a journal. Jessie loves all animals, but cats are her favourite, in fact her cat Freddie even featured on her birthday cake.

Jessie has lived at Appleby House care home since December 2014 after making lots of friends there whilst spending time in respite care.

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Tas Restaurant and Grill

Picture: London Fire Brigade

Residents flee after restaurant fire

Three people were evacuated from a restaurant after a part of its kitchen was damaged by a fire in North Cheam on New Year's Eve.

Four fire engines and 21 firefighters and officers were called to Tas Restaurant & Grill, in London Road, shortly after 1pm. No injuries were reported and the cause

of the fire is believed to be accidental.

A Tas Restaurant & Grill spokesman said: "Yeah everybody is okay, nothing happened. There is no big damage anyway."

Crews from Sutton, New Malden and Mitcham fire stations attended and the incident was under control by 2.25pm.

Busy road to shut for work

Motorists warned about vital repairs

Reporter

Sophie Jones

sophie.jones@london.
newsquest.co.uk

Beddington Lane, the B272, will be fully closed from Monday for road widening works and a new cycle and pedestrian path.

Beginning on January 8, the road works aren't expected to be completed until March 2018.

The stretch of road affected is from the junction at Brookmead Road to the junction at Croydon Road.

A signed road diversion will be in place for access to the industrial estate and pedestrians will still have access.

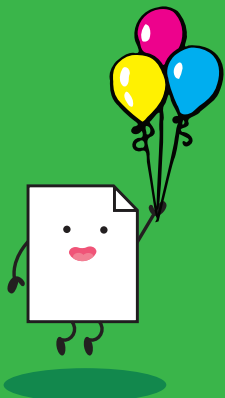
The works will be split into two stages: Stage one will give access to the industrial estate from the south only and Stage two will give access to the industrial estate from the north only.



Beddington Lane will be closed

Picture: Stock image

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Ninebarrow start folk club's new year

The first guests at Croydon Folk Club in 2018 are multi-award-winning folk duo Ninebarrow on Monday, January 15.

Poole-based Jon Whitley (vocals, organ, ukulele, tenor, octave mandola, piano) and Jay LaBouchardiere (vocals, reed organ) combine breathtaking vocal harmonies and melodies, delivering original songs inspired and rooted in the landscape and history of the British Isles. Their stories behind their songs combine the music with history, folklore and storytelling.

As well as crafting unique and engaging original material, Ninebarrow also take a wide range of traditional folk songs and rework them in their own, distinctive way. They have been delighting audiences with their simply beautiful melodies and harmonies.

Ninebarrow, nominees in the Best Emerging Artist category at the 2017 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, take their name from Ninebarrow Down, an ancient archaeological site, one of the Purbeck Hills.

Ninebarrow, Croydon Folk Club, Cedar Room, Ruskin House, Croydon, CR0 1BD on Mondays. Doors 8pm. Tickets at £12 or £10 for members. Visit croydonfolkclub.org.uk

JOIN THE

GO! TEAM

**THE GO!
TEAM**

The Go! Team take to the stage at New Slang in Kingston next Thursday night ahead of their new album release...

Get set for The Go! Team who play at New Slang on Thursday, January 18 the night before they launch their new album.

This will be the band's first New Slang visit and it promises to be an exciting night in celebration of their new album that follows up from 2015's *The Scene Between*.

Infectious and massive indie-pop tunes that take on a marching-band styled sound on this record, with plenty of soul stomping sounds, hip hop beats and plenty of joy.

Stacking up sousaphones, glockenspiels and steel drums,

Semicircle is a kaleidoscopic cacophony, almost as if the sound itself is bent and refracted in the metallic curves of a trumpet, comforting and intoxicating at the same time.

One moment we hear the kids from Detroit channelling *Rescue Me* and *SOS* on Mayday, a morse-code-inspired soul belter about a love emergency, then there's Ninja unleashing a volley of verbal stingers on *She Got Guns* or the lo-fi R&B vocal for *Chain Link Fence*; *Semicircle* brings together unlikely elements to create a euphoric and exhilarating experience.

After the show, it's New Slang as usual where clubbers can expect to hear the likes of The 1975, Foals, The Vaccines, Wolf Alice, alt-J and many more until 2am.

The Go! Team, New Slang, The Hippodrome, 1 St James Road, Kingston, KT1 2AH. Times TBC, but doors are expected to open at 9pm with The Go! Team on stage at 10:30pm, please check back.

Album and ticket combos are available from £11 or more ticket options will be available online. **More details at banquetrecords.com**

FILMCHOICE

THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI (15): Hell hath no fury like a grief-stricken mother scorned in London-born writer-director Martin McDonagh's blackly comic thriller, which pits one vigilante parent against her local police force in a fictional midwestern town. Impeccably scripted and blessed with a blistering lead performance from Frances McDormand, *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* is a near perfect film in the right place at the right time. McDonagh's explosive morality tale is fuelled by the righteous anger of a spirited woman, who believes her concerns are being ignored by men in power and will not rest until all lines of inquiry have been exhausted in the pursuit of justice. Her rebel yell sparks sickening violence that may divide audiences, including one scene in a dentist's surgery that leaves jaws truly dropped, but brutality always serves the lean, muscular narrative. McDonagh directs with an assured hand, deftly juggling the ticking time bombs of ghoulish comedy and heartrending tragedy.

DARKEST HOUR (PG): The 27 tumultuous days which led to Winston Churchill's impassioned cry for the British to fight on the beaches and in the streets in 1940, is elegantly dramatised in Joe Wright's handsomely crafted character study, *Darkest Hour*. Based on a script by Anthony McCarten, who was Oscar nominated for *The Theory of Everything*, this timely account of political hubris during blood-soaked conflict is distinguished by a tour-de-force performance from Gary Oldman. Concealed behind layers of flawless make-up and latex, the London-born actor surely has one hand on an Academy Award for his mesmerising embodiment of the rotund statesman, who bore the weight of responsibility for evacuating more than 300,000 Allied soldiers from the beaches of Dunkirk. Oldman delivers Churchill's public addresses with lip-smacking relish but it's in the film's quieter moments, when the politician stares into the hollowed eyes of self-doubt, that his performance delivers knockout blows. Kristin Scott Thomas and Ben Mendelsohn offer sterling support, the latter tugging heartstrings in a softly played final scene in which King George VI counsels Churchill: "Go to the people. Let them instruct you."

HOSTILES (15): Retribution and regret are saddle-sore

travelling companions in writer-director Scott Cooper's gritty western, set during the final years of the blood-thirsty war between the United States Army and Native Americans. Hostiles cocks its pistol towards political correctness by apportioning blame for the slaughter to both sides of the conflict. Cooper's script isn't inclined to rigorously debate moral ambiguities and characters sometimes enforce racial and tribal stereotypes for the sake of dramatic expediency. However, boundaries between conventional heroes and villains are intriguingly blurred, and justice is seldom granted to battle-scarred characters as they endure "the Lord's rough ways". Christian Bale delivers a blistering performance as a world-weary army captain, whose humanity is revitalised by an unexpected encounter with the sole survivor of a Comanche attack (Rosamund Pike). The on-screen pairing of the two British actors elevates Cooper's film.

ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD (15): Based on one version of events surrounding the 1963 kidnapping of 16-year-old John Paul Getty III, Ridley Scott's propulsive thriller sustains dramatic tension with aplomb as David Scarpa's script ricochets between the gang holding the boy hostage and the dysfunctional Getty family. Michelle Williams teases out the steely resolve of the young Getty's mother, who married into wealth and has to rely on the benevolence of others to save her son (Charlie Plummer). "You have to give me some time here, I'm fighting an empire," she pleads to one kidnapper (Roman Duris). Oil tycoon J Paul Getty (Christopher Plummer) refuses to plunder a single cent from his billion-dollar empire, coldly arguing that if he paid a ransom for one grandchild he would set a costly precedent. Instead, he hires former CIA agent and security consultant Fletcher Chace (Mark Wahlberg) to rescue the boy.

BRAD'S STATUS (15): There's no pleasing some people. The central character of Brad's Status is a narcissist and neurotic, whose deep-seated feelings of inadequacy are exacerbated by the picture-perfect, lavish lifestyles of the people he once knew. Played with sufficient warmth by Ben Stiller to retain our empathy if not our sympathy, the eponymous grouch is repeatedly reminded of the true



Frances McDormand as Mildred Hayes.
PA Photo/Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp/Merrick Morton

riches in his miserabilist existence: his adoring wife (Jenna Fischer) and child (Austin Abrams). Brad's Status is a well observed portrait of middle-age malaise, galvanised by the on-screen chemistry between Stiller and Abrams. Their scenes together have a natural tension and awkwardness that rings true.

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN (PG): Roll up and rock out for director Michael Gracey's hyperkinetic, foot-stomping musical based on the topsy-turvy life of circus impresario and master of shameless self-promotion Phineas Taylor Barnum (Hugh Jackman). Razzle smooches dazzle in every breathlessly choreographed, crowd-pleasing frame of this rags-to-riches fairytale set to a wickedly infectious score composed by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, who pirouetted away with Oscars for *La La Land*. The duo should clear the mantelpiece for more golden statuettes because their songbook here is a barnstorming selection of earworms. Unquestionably, the script co-written by Jenny Bicks and Bill Condon is light on characterisation and polishes the morally questionable legacy of manipulator PT to a sanitised lustre. Somehow, despite manifold failings, Gracey's picture

is a joy-infused, whoop-inducing blast of pure pleasure that calibrates every swoon of romance and doff of a top hat with masterful precision. I was gleefully and giddily suckered.

MOLLY'S GAME (15): Oscar-winning screenwriter Aaron Sorkin makes his directorial debut with a slick dramatisation of the rise and fall of Molly Bloom, who dealt herself a winning hand in 2009 as hostess of Hollywood's most exclusive poker game with a 50,000 US dollar stake to sit at a table frequented by film stars, directors and business titans. The first-time film-maker deals a full house of snappy dialogue to his cast, overplaying his hand on occasion so Jessica Chastain is forced to deliver screeds in voiceover as the title character. Some one-liners zing, others are clumsily forced ("I felt I was in a hole, so deep. I could go fracking") but his cast are committed, including one showy scene for co-star Idris Elba that makes amends for a lack of fireworks during a sluggish first hour. Sorkin's words speak louder than his choices behind the camera and his film is overlong. However, like some of the people around Molly's table, he bluffs his way towards a winning position.

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Spotlight turns on THE MITFORDS

Heather Long stars in
Gail Louw's *The Mitfords*

News Shopper caught up with the Brighton-based playwright Gail Louw before her latest play *The Mitfords* embarks on a UK tour, and we were keen to learn how she goes about choosing a topic on which to write a play?

"It is varied", explains Gail. "From an experience you have yourself, a story you might read or hear about, or simply getting your imagination going and conceiving characters, experiences, events, dilemmas. Or you pick up a book and find all those characters and experiences and events just waiting for you. And this was the case with this play."

"I was browsing Brighton Library's biography section and came across a book about the Mitford sisters. I knew about them well enough and pounced on the idea."

"I tend to write about flawed characters; they excite me more than black and white heroes or villains. And all the sisters could certainly be described as people who were far from perfect. However, that was what made them so interesting."

"The more I read, the more I realised there's just so much of interest about these women. Of all my plays, I don't think I've ever enjoyed the process of reading and learning about it more than with *The Mitfords*; I've found it absolutely fascinating."

The six Mitford sisters lived in the 20th century. Diana was married to Oswald Mosley and a lifelong fascist. Unity was a great close friend of Hitler. Jessica was a dyed-in-the-wool communist. Deborah became Duchess of Devonshire. Nancy was a well-loved novelist. Pamela kept chickens. And much of their varied lives were synchronous with major events that defined that period.

With the topic of her next play chosen, why did Gail decide the incredible tale of these fascinating sisters would be best presented through the mechanism of a one-woman play?

"So that I would be able to cover all of the stories with their diversity and range of extreme political and social opinion – the sisters were all such big characters in their own right."

"And also that it would be a theatrical tour de force! It's a challenge for one actress to play multiple characters who all sound the same, with very little to distinguish them by accent, class or language used – but equally, a one-woman play rewards you with much more freedom. The sisters can interact or talk to themselves; they can talk about their own lives and their reactions to the others. You can play with time and there aren't any constraints."

Four of the Mitford sisters. Picture: Devonshire Collection Chatsworth
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Naturally one of the major themes explored in *The Mitfords* is the political issues of the 20th century and just how the sisters developed such fiercely opposing views when forming their personal ideas about humanity, communism, fascism and Nazism.

"Unity and Jessica shared a bedroom and they divided that room into fascism versus communism: on the one side was the swastika and on the other side hung

the hammer and sickle flag. It was always like that from a very young age, and yet there was an intense connection between the two sisters and a real love, in spite of their opposing principles."

As we might expect from a story about *The Mitfords*, the play also explores what it is like to be a sister, a daughter, a mother and – perhaps most intriguingly – a wife.

"Their relationships are fascinating. All of the sisters gave up things for a man: the

men in their lives were terribly important and they all suffered – in their own distinctive ways – for love."

And what is it that Gail hopes that audiences take away from their evening with *The Mitfords*?

"I am sure this play will particularly appeal to many who are interested in a unique, challenging and exciting approach to telling the Mitford sisters' story. I hope audiences thoroughly enjoy the theatricality of it all and that they find these sisters just as fascinating and captivating I do."

The Mitfords, Epsom Playhouse, Ashley Avenue, Epsom, KT18 5AL, January 25, 7.30pm. Visit epsomplayhouse.co.uk

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It has been an interesting year for property and 2018 is looking no different.

Throughout 2017 politics continued to dominate the headlines with the General Election in June followed by continued discussions over Brexit, all of which loomed over the property market. As a result, house prices neither went through the roof, nor crashed, and later in the year stamp duty for some was abolished in a surprise twist of the Budget.

The latest figures released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that, in the twelve months to October, property prices rose by 4.5 per cent, and that the average property price in the UK now stands at £224,000.

London showed the lowest rate of growth, with prices up 2.1 per cent in a year. It was in the English regions where growth was most pronounced, with the East Midlands showing the highest annual growth, at seven per cent, and the South West (6.7 per cent) and East of England (6.1 per cent) not far behind.

Hot spots, i.e. areas recording double-digit growth in the course of the year to October, included Swale in Kent (15.5 per cent) and West Somerset (13.4 per cent). Yet in Hartlepool, prices fell by 6.1 per cent.

With Theresa May still Prime Minister, albeit as part of a Conservative coalition with the DUP, the kind of major shake-up of the housing market, promised by Labour, did not materialise. The main policy announcement in Philip Hammond's Autumn Budget was the abolition of stamp duty for first time buyers on properties worth less than £300,000.

WHAT'S NEXT IN 2018?



Those campaigning for much more drastic cuts in stamp duty to revitalise the property market were left disappointed.

The Chancellor's announcement came so late in the year that its impact on the property market will not become apparent until later in 2018. Many

first time buyers continue to struggle to get on the property ladder and, despite the government's welcome commitment to build 300,000 new homes a year, experts remain sceptical that the homes will actually be built.

"It is not clear from the measures that the

Chancellor announced, how it is intended to get from the current 217,000 net new homes a year to the higher figure," says David Jackson, Head of Planning at Savills. Demand continues to outstrip supply, and by some distance.

It also remains to be seen what will be the effect of the modest rise in interest rates announced by the Governor of the Bank of England in August. Monthly mortgage payments have gone up for homeowners on variable rate mortgages, but only by small amounts. And, after years of historically low interest rates, there seemed to be a consensus that the interest rate rise was a positive rather than negative move.

"It is actually good news for the housing market," says Guy Gittins, Head of Residential Sales at Chestertons. "The knock-on effect will most likely be that the value of sterling will increase, which should give added confidence to overseas buyers looking to invest in the UK."

Whether investor confidence remains high in 2018 will to some extent be dictated by the progress in the Brexit negotiations. But whatever political turbulence lies ahead, the UK property market ends the year in reasonable shape.

Yes, there are ongoing challenges with supply and for first time buyers and homeowners wanting to move, but the fundamentals of the market remain sound. Most commentators continue to believe that bricks and mortar remain an attractive long-term investment.

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Epsom Let £1,295pcm

MORE
REQUIRED



- Ground Floor Maisonette
- Two Bedrooms
- Walking Dist Of Town
- Reception
- Fitted Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Garage
- E.P.C Rating D

Ashted Let £1,225pcm

MORE
REQUIRED



- Heart Of Ashted Village
- First Floor Apartment
- Two Double Bedrooms
- En Suite Shower Room
- Open Plan Living
- Unfurnished
- Parking
- E.P.C. Rating B

Epsom Let £1,100pcm

MORE
REQUIRED



- Conversion Apartment
- Private Balcony
- Master Bedroom
- Family Bathroom
- Open Plan Living Room
- Allocated Parking
- Available May
- E.P.C Rating C

Epsom Office 01372 743 033
Ashted Office 01372 888 888
Lettings Office 01372 731 966
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Announcements - Public Notices

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

Notice is hereby given that the following applications have been received:

17/01429/FUL
Unit 10, Spread Eagle Walk, High Street
Change of use of Unit 10 from retail (A1) to a flexible use of retail (A1) financial and professional (A2)/restaurant (A3) floorspace at ground floor and gymnasium (D2) use at first floor level. Associated alterations to south elevation and installation of plant equipment at roof level.

17/01450/FUL
Langley Vale Memorial Woodland Site, Headley Road, Langley Vale
Creation of a permanent car park, overflow car park, cycle parking, new access to Headley Road, gates, height restrictor, ticket machine, CCTV, hard surfaced paths, multi-user paths and memorial area, including sculptures (Full Application). Erection of visitors' centre and place space including play equipment (Outline application) and associated infrastructure in relation to Langley Vale Wood - Centenary Woodland for England

17/01179/FLH
28 Higher Green, Ewell, Surrey
Demolition of garage and erection of single storey side extension incorporating new garage, part single/part two storey rear extension, loft conversion comprising rear roof modification with flank and rear facing rooflights, replacement of existing side extension aluminium windows with upvc leaded light windows.

Applications may be viewed online: <http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/EEBC/Planning> or alternatively by visiting Epsom Town Hall, The Parade, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5BY during office hours or in local public libraries with internet access. Should you wish to comment please use our website or email supportgrouprequests@epsom-ewell.gov.uk or write to Place Development at the above address. Please make sure that you quote the application reference number. Comments should be sent within 21 days from the date of this notice. All comments will be publicly available for inspection and will be displayed online.

Please note that details of all planning applications received are available on the Council's website.

Head of Place Development
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

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NOTICE
THE SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
EAST STREET (A24), EPSOM AND EPSOM ROAD (A24), EWELL TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC ORDER 2018

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSE TO MAKE the above mentioned Temporary Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("the Act"), the effect of which will be to prohibit vehicles from entering or proceeding in that length of East Street (A24), Epsom and Epsom Road (A24), Ewell that extends from the junction with Church Road to the junction with Langton Avenue. Vehicular traffic will be diverted via East Street, Upper High Street, Alexandra Road, College Road, Reigate Road and Epsom Road. This Temporary Traffic Order is required to enable major maintenance and/or highway resurfacing works on behalf of Surrey County Council. These works are anticipated to be carried out between the hours of 20:00 to 06:00 as soon as possible within the eighteen month period of operation of this Temporary Traffic Order which commences on 30th January 2018. Advanced warning signs will be displayed and the temporary closure will only operate when the relevant traffic signs are displayed. Access will be maintained at all times for pedestrians, residents, businesses and emergency vehicles however all H.G.V.s and buses will be required to follow the signed diversion route. Any vehicle found to be obstructing the highway during these works will be removed to a suitable location outside the limits of the works after all reasonable methods have been undertaken to identify and contact the vehicle's owner.

DATED 11TH JANUARY 2018

Authorising Officer: R Bolton
Local Highway Services Group Manager

Any Enquiries relating to this notice should be directed to:

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Surrey County Council - Highways
Hazel House
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Tel: 0300 200 1003

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And, of course, it's rewarding for a pro like yourself to know you've made their day. Not everything is done over the phone or internet, however. Clients will regularly pop into the office to ask for advice on whether a property suits their needs. They will also come in to sign leases, which can be a formal and witnessed document. In a climate where the best lease properties are rare, and when the most eager clients want viewings as early as possible, top notch organisational skills are needed, as well as attention to

detail in order to maximise the number of viewings in a day. In this area IT skills will make it easier to work the online diary and reply to emails efficiently.

Having good knowledge of locations - or being a whizz at taking top tips in geography and market desirability - is handy too. If you don't fancy a desk job, the role of viewing agent means you can find yourself all over the country, showing viewers around properties and answering questions.

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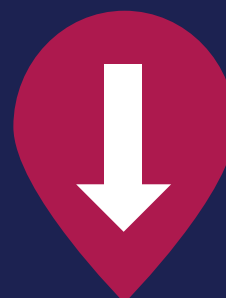
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BACKGROUND: The advantages of all-electric cars are well documented, but they can be expensive to buy. That's been part of the enduring appeal of smart's fortwo electric drive model which, after government grants, can be yours for around £16,500. It only has two seats though, which for some urban folk will be unreasonably restrictive. These people may well like the idea of being able to get a five-door 'forfour' version of the same car for just £500 more. Smart is banking on that anyway. The brand has been offering battery-powered models for a decade now and here, it's delivered its most sophisticated technology yet.

DRIVING EXPERIENCE:

Around town, this smart's driving characteristics are agile and lively, aided by an ultra-small turning circle. And on the open road? Well how does the thought of 0-60 in 4.8 seconds grab you? Okay, it's 60km/h but, thanks to 160Nm of torque in something this light, it's still respectably quick. 0-62mph takes 11.5s on the way to 81mph flat out. It's certainly brisk enough to be able to sidestep the brake pedal and catapult the little forfour off the line. That it does so without anything in the way of engine noise is even more impressive, the merest whirr of the uprated 60kW (81bhp) electric motor accompanying a scarcely perceptible whine from

the one-speed transmission. It's all very serene and makes city driving rather stress free. On the highway, you can theoretically reach an 81mph maximum, but this does rather chew the battery's range which, when driven a bit more sedately, can be eked out to up to 100 miles. An indicator on the dashboard lets you know how efficiently you're driving. Needless to say, you'll be tempted to gun it everywhere. It's too much fun not to. With all of the batteries mounted in the sandwich floor, the forfour electric drive has an admirably low centre of gravity and probably corners better than its petrol sibling. The lithium-ion battery's underfloor position is both thermally stable and good for crash protection.

DESIGN: No practical compromises have been made with this forfour model to incorporate the electric drive layout, so the recipe is much as it would be in the standard car. It really does look like a smart fortwo that's been photoshopped into something longer and shares the smaller car's pug-like front end and the hallmark tridion safety cell. There's a lot of shape in the flanks, from the swage lines near the door handles to the almost Volvo-like shoulder line that's most apparent as it melds into the rear light cluster. Look down and there's a genuine concavity to the lower door panels, smart going a bit further than sticking a curved detail

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on there as you'd get on a Renault Clio or Captur. The cabin features as many quirky touches as you can stomach and it's good to see smart pushing the boat out a bit with colours and textures, including a technical mesh finish. At the price charged, this should be a car that feels premium and different to the

usual citycar norm. It's still not huge inside, and the boot measures a mean 180-litres. The good news is that the rear doors open to 85 degrees (which makes getting in the back simple) and the rear seats fold completely flat, offering up to 975-litres of space.

MARKET AND MODEL:

This smart electric drive model costs around £17,000, once the government's generous £4,500 Plug-in car grant is taken into account. That's £500 than the equivalent version of the two-seat smart fortwo. This pricing puts this smart against

tough competition. An all-electric Renault Zoé would cost around the same but it wouldn't be as small and nippy as this forfour. With the "smart control" app that comes with the car, lots of electric drive information can be accessed via smartphone, tablet or PC and functions such as pre-entry climate control or intelligent charging can be conveniently controlled remotely. This improved model has more operating options than its predecessor. For example, two programmable departure times mean that intelligent charging and pre-entry climate control do not always need to be re-set for frequent journeys. Options include a 'winter package' with a heated steering wheel and the 'electric drive design' package that gives the vehicle an expressive look with tridion safety cell and door mirror caps painted in exclusive electric green. There's also the smart BRABUS tailor made individualisation programme for more bespoke wishes. Were I a purchaser, I'd want to talk to my smart retailer about the cost of adding a wall charging box at home to decrease the total charging time from seven to six hours. Or if I had a work-based or publically-accessible fast-charging point in my vicinity, I might even want to consider paying for the optional 22kW on-board charger that charges in just 45 minutes.



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Brinsden takes title

The best athletes in Surrey representing over 40 clubs gathered for the County Cross-Country Championships on Sunday at a windswept Denbies Vineyard in Dorking, **writes Stuart Flack**.

The performance of the day came from Izzy Brinsden of Epsom & Ewell Harriers. Her strength told as she pulled away from the senior women's field on the second lap of the tough 8km course to take the Surrey title. There were more medals for the Harriers with Kiara Valkenburg taking an excellent silver medal in the under 15 girls race and a brilliant team bronze for the under 13 boys.

Conrad Norman lead the under 13s team home in 6th place to secure selection for the Surrey team at the Inter-Counties Championships, and with great support from Jake Valkenburg 16th, Joe Barker 24th and James Birbeck 52nd, the team claimed the bronze medal.

Sophie Lomas also finished 6th in the u13 girls race to gain Surrey selection and with great packing from Riona Stockley 25th, Sophie Osborn 28th and Grace Fordham 29th, the team narrowly missed out on a bronze medal by just 7 points.

Kiara's silver in the under 15 girls helped the team to 5th place with fine runs by Jasmine Peel 34th, Matilda Moore 46th and Beth Hammond 52nd. Issy Stockley ran strongly to finish 17th in the under 17 girls race and, with Lauren Flack 25th and Laura Howley 28th, the team finished 7th.

Miller hits hat-trick

Carshalton Athletic forward Mickel Miller was 'spot-on' last weekend as his hat-trick kept up the club's assault on the Bostik South summit, **writes James Barrett-Sterling**.

The Robins saw off visiting Sittingbourne 3-0 last Saturday, with Miller confidently dispatching two penalties and adding a superbly-taken strike late on, and have now only suffered one defeat in their last 15 games.

The club sit fifth in the league five points behind leaders Lewes, although other clubs in the play-off positions have games in hand.

"We stuck to our game plan and it eventually paid off," said Miller who now has 22 goals to his name this season.

"They sat back and gave us a lot of time on the ball, so we had to be patient. We could relax a bit after the first penalty and we created more opportunities in the second-half."

Carshalton's next match is a trip to VCD Athletic on Saturday, January 13 (3pm).

Tommy Wright, seen here celebrating a late goal at Hartlepool, scored twice at Gateshead on Saturday and grabbed a hat-trick against Molesey on Monday. Picture: Paul Loughlin



Five-star Wright

By Warren Gwilym

wgwilym@london.newsquest.co.uk

Tommy Wright made it five goals in two days with a first-half hat-trick as Sutton United mauled Molesey 7-1 in the Surrey Senior Cup on Monday night.

The lethal 21-year-old marksman grabbed the opener in the 17th minute and went on to complete his treble with goals in the 34th and 37th minutes.

Ross Lafayette also found the target in the 20th minute as the U's went in at half-time four goals to the good against the lowly Bostik League South side.

Wright was replaced at half-time but the U's soon added three further goals through a Simon Walton penalty on 53 minutes, Lafayette (55) and Kieron Cadogan (60).

Molesey scored a 68th minute consolation through Tayo Oyebola but Sutton eased through to the quarter-finals of a competition they last won in 2003.

Wright's 64th-minute introduction at Gateshead on Saturday swung the game in Sutton's favour.

A dour match at the International Stadium looked to be drifting towards a goalless draw when the Sutton

striker beat goalkeeper Dan Harford to an enticing Louis John cross to head into the net just 10 minutes after coming off the bench.

Wright then added a second in the 81st minute when he fired low past Hanford from 20 yards to further enhance his growing reputation and make the return leg more bearable for the 64 Sutton fans who made the 600-mile round trip to Tyneside.

Manager Paul Doswell rejigged his line up with Wigan Athletic loanee Owen Evans taking over in goal from the injured Jamie Butler and Harry Beautyman returning to Sutton's midfield following last week's transfer from League Two side Stevenage.

Both players gave impressive performances as Sutton picked up three valuable points from a tough away trip.

Doswell thought the situation was ideal for Wright to make an impact, priming the young striker before the match and the plan worked perfectly.

"Tommy has now got eight goals after coming off the bench and two when he's started matches," explained the Sutton boss.

Salts beaten by Lobsters

Epsom and Ewell lost 3-0 on Saturday in the A23 derby at Kiln Brow, Salfords, when the Lobsters of Redhill completed the double, **writes George Holland**.

The Salts went 1-0 down on 37 minutes through Steve Burford in an even first half. However, Redhill dominated the second period, and goals from Burford on 73 minutes, and John Trotter on 90 minutes resulted in a 3-0 win for them.

And so they claimed the local bragging rights and the 3 points at stake. They now sit comfortably in 12th place. With the Salts at the bottom of the table.

Epsom now visit Godalming this Saturday (January 13, 3pm) in the Combined Counties League. Godalming sit one place and ten points above the Salts, having already won 3-0 at The High Road in November. The following Tuesday (January 16) Epsom host Merstham in the Surrey Senior Cup, at The High Road, Chipstead. Kick-off is 7.45pm. Entry are £7 adults (£4 concessions, £1 children).

Rixon at the double

Sutton Common Rovers moved to within a point of second placed Bedfont Sports thanks to a hard fought 3-1 win over Guildford City on Saturday, **writes Gary Bridgen**.

Rovers got off to a terrible start, as the visitors opened the scoring inside five minutes. Former SCR man Jordan Gallagher whipped in tremendous cross, and Dan Stewart beat Michael Eacott with a close range header.

The scores were level five minutes later when a hopeful ball into the area caused confusion in the Guildford backline and Craig Nelson was able to fire home from eight yards.

Rovers held the upper hand in the second half, and were aided with ten minutes before when another former Rovers man Nemo Adams saw red for a poor challenge on Matt Tanton.

With the man advantage Rovers had everything in their favour, but Guildford dug in and defended resolutely, offering only occasional attacks through Gallagher and the speedy Nathaniel Williams.

Rovers continued to press and Gallagher hooked a Nelson drive off the line on 74 minutes, before Rovers took the lead on 77 minutes. This time Nelson's cross was powerfully headed home by Asa Rixon, and with five minutes remaining, Rixon sealed the win firing home from 12 yards.

Rovers face a tricky trip to CB Hounslow United on Saturday.

Rutter's first

Strong, cold blustery winds and muddy conditions did not deter 615 runners from taking part in Sunday's Tadworth Ten, **writes Stephen Robinson**.

The race was started this year by the Mayor of Epsom, Councillor Liz Frost.

Based at Epsom Racecourse the 10 mile multiterrain run takes in the Epsom Downs, Walton-on-the Hill and Tadworth.

The men's race was very competitive, with Martin Rutter of Clapham Chasers crossing the line in 59:22, just 31 seconds ahead of Andrew McCaskill in 59:53. Adam Teszke was third in 1:01:03.

The ladies' race was won by Alex Baird of Serpentine Running Club in 1:09:26. Collingwood A.C. runners Debbie Jackson, 1:09:42, and Lisa Rooney, 1:10:20, were close behind in second and third places.

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Lindisfarne & The Alnwick Garden

Explore the kingdom of Northumbria!

4 days from £279.00, 25 May & 22 June 2018

Visit the magical Alnwick Garden, one of the most remarkable garden transformations of recent time.

Highlights & inclusions

- Entrance to The Alnwick Garden
- Tour of Northumbria's heritage coastline, visits to Lindisfarne and York
- Three nights' dinner, bed and English breakfast accommodation at the Holiday Inn in Washington (or similar)
- Coach travel from the local area
- Escorted by a friendly tour manager



Portmeirion & Welsh Mountain Steam

Full of variety and interest!

4 days from £239.00, Apr, Jun & Oct 2018

The extraordinary Italianate village of TV's 'The Prisoner' fame, and two wonderful railway journeys through North Wales' stunning scenery, all add up to a memorable break.

Highlights & inclusions

- Single journeys on the Conwy Valley Railway and Ffestiniog Railway
- Portmeirion, the set of 1960s TV series 'The Prisoner'
- Visit to Llandudno
- Three nights' dinner, bed and English breakfast accommodation at the Westminster Hotel in Rhyl
- Coach travel from the local area
- Escorted by a friendly tour manager





- Local Sutton-based experts with **20 years** in the business
 - We have an outstanding local reputation
 - Reliable, friendly customer service
 - Free quotes and advice
- We supply and install everything with a start-to-finish service



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